

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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SUBJECT: GOB STATEMENT ON OAU FOREIGN MINISTER MEETING

REFERENCE: BAMAKO 754

1. FOLLOWING IS ARTICLE FROM FEBRUARY 28 EDITION OF GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS RE GOB STATEMENT ON OAU FOREIGN MINISTER MEETING. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE. THE 24TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH WAS HELD IN ADDIS ABABA ENDED ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 AFTER 12 DAYS OF EXCITING DEBATES, A STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENTS OFFICE SAID. "THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SESSION WAS TO DISCUSS THE OAU BUDGET, BUT AS IT WAS HELD AT A TIME WHEN MOMENTOUS DEVELOPMENTS WERE TAKING PLACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE AFRO-ARAB WORLD, THE COUNCIL DRIFTED INTO DISCUSSING POLITICAL ISSUES IN THESE AREA," IT ADDED.

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BOTSWANA WAS REPRESENTED AT THE SESSION BY A DELEGATION OF SIX WHICH WAS LED BY ARCHIE MOGWE, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE M.C. TIBONE, SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, E. M. ONTUMETSE, BOTSWANA HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ZAMBIA AND AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, B. M. SETSHOGO, UNDERSECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, G. G. GAREBAMONO, PRINCIPAL EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND A. M. MARUMO, STATE COUNCIL IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBER.

"PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION MR. JOHN MALECELA, FOREIGN MINISTER OF TANZANIA BRIEFED THE COUNCIL ON THE LUSAKA TALKS, WHICH IF SUCCESSFUL COULD BRING MAJORITY RULE TO ZIMBABWE WITHIN A VERY SHORT PERIOD. MR. MALECELA'S REPORT WAS RECEIVED VERY WARMLY BY THE COUNCIL AND PRESIDENTS KHAMA, KAUNDA, NYERERE AND MACHEL WERE CONGRATULATED ON WHAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR.

"THE RELEASE OF SOME OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST LEADERS AND THE UNITY OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF ZIMBAWE WERE HAILED AS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT WHICH JUSTIFY THE CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE OVER THE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM.

SPECIAL SESSION

"THE COUNCIL HOWEVER EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE INTERNAL SITUATION WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA. THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA WAS ACCUSED OF DOUBLE STANDARDS AS IT IS INTENSIFYING REPRESSION AT HOME WHILST AT THE SAME TIME IT IS REPORTEDLY MAKING FRIENDLY OVERTURES TO CERTAIN WEST AFRICAN STATES.

"THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS OF THE VIEW THAT CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF OAU PRINCIPLES SUCH AS THOSE OUTLINED IN THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO. AS BILATERAL AND UNILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND CERTAIN WEST AFRICAN STATES SEEMED TO BE ON THE INCREASE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT A SPECIAL SESSION ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE HELD IN DAR ES SALAAM AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL 1975.

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". PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST WERE VIEWED AS SIMILAR PROBLEMS BECAUSE BOTH INVOLVE THE DENIAL OF BASIC RIGHTS TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AN OAU MEETING THE MIDDLE EAST WAS REFERRED TO AS AN AFRO/ARAB PROBLEM AND THEREFORE EFFORTS AT FINDING A SOLUTION TO IT SHOULD NOT BE MONOPOLIZED BY THE TWO SUPER POWERS." THE STATEMENT SAID.

IT ADDED THAT "TO EMPHASIZE THE LINK BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE SHOULD GIVE TOKEN ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION."

"THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE NECESSITY OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION WERE ALSO GIVEN PRIORITY IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE COUNCIL. IN ORDER TO MAKE AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION REAL AND MORE EFFECTIVE IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN BE ENLARGED TO TWELVE, AND ITS MANDATE WAS EXTENDED TO COVER PREPARATIONS FOR AN AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT. BOTSWANA IS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS ENLARGED COMMITTEE." END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THERE IS INTERESTING CONTRAST BETWEEN GOB'S VIEW OF OAU REACTION TO BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA, AND TANZANIA'S ROLE IN RHODESIA NEGOTIATIONS AND VIEW EXPRESSED BY MALI FONMIN IN PARA 2D OF REFTEL.
BOLEN

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